

File DOE/027

Richfield Ranger District

MAY 31 '83

District Ranger	_____
District Clerk	_____
Forester I	_____
Forester II	_____
Range Con. I	_____
Range Con. II	_____
Range Con. III	_____
Range Tech.	_____
Minerals	_____
Clerks	_____

1425 South State
Orem, Utah 84057
May, 29, 1983

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Fish Lake National Forest, Richfield District
Richfield, Utah 84701

Gentlemen:

The following is the operation plan for placer mining of Red Creek:

1) There are no lessees, assigns, or designees. Address all correspondence to:

Valden J. Francks
1425 South State
Orem, Utah 84057

2) Operators, owners and partners of Red Creek Mining are:

Valden J. Francks
1425 South State
Orem, Utah 84057
(801) 225-0774

Vikki L. Francks
Same address

John E. Francks
Same address

Robert L. Kump
Box 6
Cleveland, Utah 84518
(801) 653-2942

Rey Reynolds
2465 W. 3200 N.
SLC, Utah

Randy Mecham
Hanksville, Utah 84734
(801) 542-3218

Deanna Mecham
Same address

Justin Mecham
Same address

3) Mining district: Hilgard Mountain range in the Fishlake National Forest, Richfield district.

4) Operation will take place at claim: Red Hole #7 of the north east quarter (¼) section of T24 S. R. 4E. Sec. 18. (See map #1 and #2)

5) A geological survey map of 7.5 minute series is included showing the outline of each claim. There are a total of 7 claims which include ¼ section each. (See sketch map for details and proposals.)

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1983

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Proposal #1: A thirty foot strip of rocky road will be covered with dirt and gravel to enhance smoother travel.

Proposal #2: Either a 16 in. by 20 ft. culvert or a rock base fjord will be placed where the creek has eroded through the roadway. Large rocks will be placed where the creek is eroding into wash and threatening road crossing.

Proposal #3: The road will be repaired where part of the creek has broken away and washed out across the road.

Proposal #4: Creek that has broken out of the main channel will be diverted into the main channel. This stream is causing serious erosion.

Refer to sketch map showing location of above four proposals. A red flagged stake will be located at proposal site #2.

The limited test operation will be done at the phase I site within claim #7.

The proposed route of access will be on the existing road along red creek.

6) The anticipated beginning of operations will be June 3, 1983 and continue for approximately 3 weeks. The operation is planned to be continuing.

7) The type of operation is to load alluvial deposits into a concentrator, using a front end loader. The concentrator washes the gravel and retains the heavy mineral portion washed free of the gravel. The waste portion of the gravel leaves the concentrator as tailings. The amount of material to be tested through the concentrator will be approximately 1000 yds.

The operation plan is to excavate in a trench-like fashion, and of width necessary to prevent sloughing of side material that may endanger the operator of the loader. The trench will be approximately 50 yds. long and 30 yds. wide. (See sketch map.)

The plan is to test material for gold at various levels of depth until the level of bedrock is reached if possible.

There will be two settling ponds to collect wash water from the concentrator. These ponds will hold water in the first one, which will then flow to the second one before reentering the creek itself. This will allow sediments to settle out before entering the natural stream. These ponds will be approx. 50 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. deep. (see sketch map)

There will be a small pond of approximately 10 ft. diameter and 2 ft. deep built to use as a source of water for pumping into the concentrator. (see sketch map)

There is no topsoil or overburden to be moved in order to obtain the test material. The entire area of operation is on a gravel bed. Site clearance will require moving of dead fall in a lop and scatter operation. There will be no trees, logs, gravel, rock, or debris moved, piled or left so as to cause interference to the natural water flow.

8) When the testing operation is finished, the tailings will be put back in the excavated trench and all gravel piled or disturbed will be replaced to the original landscape.

All efforts will be made to preserve the live trees within the area. All efforts will be made to prevent erosion. There will be no blocking of access roads by excavation or with equipment. Any grass areas disturbed will be replaced with a grass mixture of the following ratio:

Kentucky Blue Grass	41 lbs.
Smooth Brome	4 lbs.
Intermediate Wheat	4 lbs.
Timothy	2 lbs.
Clover	4 lbs.
Alfalfa	2 lbs.
Total	20 lbs./ acre

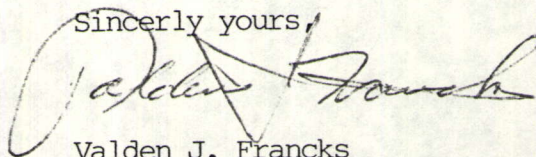
9) Mark Page, the state water engineer of Price, Utah has reviewed and okayed the diversion and use of red creek water from the stream. All water used will be returned to the natural stream as so described earlier in the operational plans.

10) All solid waste material will be collected and hauled off the forest area for disposal.

11) A slit trench facility will be used for sanitary wastes and will be covered when use is no longer needed.

12) A \$1000.00 bond will be posted prior to starting of the operation that has been described.

Sincerely yours,



Valden J. Francks

HILGARD MTN. QUADRANGLE
UTAH-SEVIER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

3761 IV SW
(OLD WOMAN
PLATEAU)

32°30"

1990 000 FEET 454

1455

1456

111°30'

38°45'

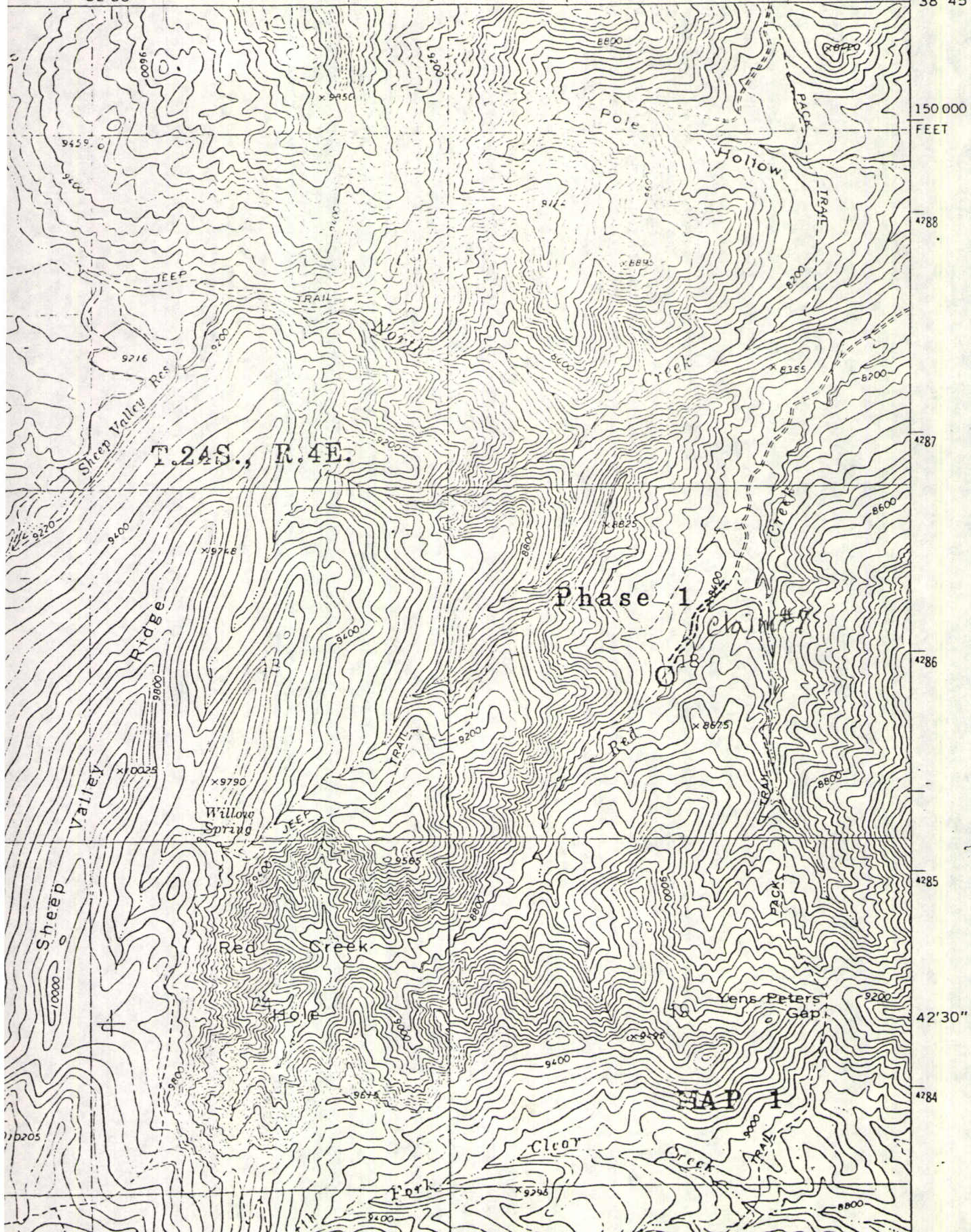
150 000
FEET

T.24S., R.4E.

Phase 1

Claim #7

MAP 1



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

RED HOLE #7 PLACER GOLD MINE
SEVIER COUNTY, UTAH

RICHFIELD RANGER DISTRICT
FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

Contact Person: Darrel Hintze
P.O. Box 646
Richfield, Utah 84701

DECISION NOTICE
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Red Hole #7 Placer Gold Mine
Sevier County, Utah

It is my decision to adopt the proposal alternative and allow placer mining at phase I. This alternative allows for surface disturbance of about 1 acre and appropriate reclamation of the disturbed area.

I have determined that this action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination was made considering the following factors.

1. No archeological evidence present.
2. Access is on existing roads.
3. Reclamation can be adequately made.
4. There are no apparent adverse cumulative or secondary effects.
5. The physical and biological effects are limited to the area of planned mining.
6. No known threatened or endangered plants or animals are within the affected area.

Work may begin immediately.



CHARLES R. ALLRED
District Ranger

DATE

6/7/83

PROPOSAL

Mine claimant Valden Francks proposes to do placer gold mining in Red Creek SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 18, T.24S., R.4E. At the location there are alluvial deposits which are proposed to be put through a trommel. The operation plan is to excavate a trench wide enough to prevent sloughing of side material to endanger the operation of the equipment. The trench will be about 150 feet long and 90 feet wide. The amount of material to be tested through the trommel concentration is estimated to be 1000 yards.

The tailings from the concentration will be put back into the excavated trench and the site will be restored to original contour and revegetated. Water is used to wash the mineral material from the alluvial deposits. Sediment ponds are planned to collect wash water from the concentration. This will allow sediments to settle out before the water is returned to the natural stream flow.

The current water flow is in several channels across the alluvial fan causing moderate to severe erosion. The plan is to collect all water and direct it into one channel.

Access is by existing roads. Some flooding has washed out a part of the road and this will be repaired.

The gold mining operation is planned in three different locations identified as phase I, phase II and phase III. This environmental assessment is for phase I only.

II. ALTERNATIVES

1. No Action - Under this alternative no prospecting would be done and the probable gold or silver would not be mined.
2. Proposal - Mining would take place as described in the proposal. There are no other known methods of removing placer deposits without washing deposits from tailings. Hence there are no other alternatives.

III. IMPACTS

1. No Action - Under this alternative no disturbance would occur. The claimants would not be allowed to determine if gold and silver are in quantities conducive to full scale mining of the precious metals.

2. Proposal - About 1 acre of surface area will be disturbed. The disturbed area will be reclaimed and revegetated. Sediments will be put into the water. To mitigate this impact sediment ponds will be used to settle out sediments before water is returned to the natural stream flow.

All solid waste material will be collected and hauled to a sanitary land fill.

A slit trench will be used for human waste and will be covered when no longer needed.

No archeological evidence is present.

IV. AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONTACTED

Tom Tetting, Geologist
Utah Division of oil, gas and mining
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Mark Page, Water Engineer
Utah State Water Division
Price, Utah.